

At YORK QUARTERLY MEETING,

Held at LEEDS the 30th and 31st of the 12th Month, 1789,

Five Hundred Copies of the following Advices were ordered to be printed, and sent to the Men's and Women's Monthly and Preparative Meetings, and distributed amongst Friends.

THIS MEETING, on considering that divers practices in the conducting of Burials, are attended with many inconveniences, and inconsistent with the moderation professed by us as a people, feels engaged to make some remarks thereon, and to issue some advices for the observance of Friends within the compass of this Meeting.

The making unnecessary provision for Friends and others who may be invited to Burials, is a means of disturbing the quiet of families, and of preventing that profitable solemnity, which might otherwise be often experienced by the survivors, on the decease of their relations and friends; and in divers instances is attended with a heavy expence to Friends in low circumstances, and which, for example sake, ought to be avoided even by those who can better afford it.

As such unnecessary provision is an incitement to eating and drinking beyond the bounds of true moderation, this may often be the principal cause of that heaviness which frequently prevails in meetings, on such occasions, which otherwise might prove the most solemn and profitable opportunities.

Burials, chiefly from some of the forementioned causes, and from a frequent inattention to the time appointed, are often at an unseasonable time of the day; so that those who would wish to attend the burial of a Friend, and avoid the entertainment, are under inconveniences from the uncertainty of the time, which is frequently many hours after that mentioned in the invitation.

In order effectually to remedy these causes of uneasiness, we recommend, that the time appointed for the corpse to be at the burial-ground, or meeting-house, be the same hour as that of the week-day meeting, or not later than eleven in the forenoon; that friends and others be invited to attend at the house in proper time, so as not to occasion unnecessary delay; and that care be taken that those who are invited be informed not only of the time at which the burial is intended to be, or the meeting to begin, but also at what hour the corpse is to be taken from the house.

And in order that our care and moderation may be on these occasions consistent with our religious profession, it is requested, that where any refreshment is judged needful, Friends will confine themselves to such provision as is moderate and necessary, and that, as much as possible, wine and other strong liquors be avoided.

This Meeting is also of the judgment, that the custom of giving biscuits, cake, &c. to be taken away by those who are invited to burials, ought to be fully abolished among Friends; and that they should, when attending the burials of others, decline accepting such, or any other things that may be offered to them, except some moderate refreshment when necessary.